

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8679

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS NDJAMENA 2722

E O 11652: NA

SUBJ: INSPECTION OF FOOD PROGRAM OPERATIONS: MONGO

REF: STATE 224425

1. ON 15 OCTOBER, CDO AND FFP MONITOR VISITED MONGO TO INSPECT FOOD PROGRAM OPERATIONS. DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD WITH THE PREFET OF GUERA HEADQUARTERED IN MONGO AND THE SOUS-PREFET OF MONGO.

2. FOOD PROGRAM OPERATION IN MONGO FOR THE GUERA PREFECTURE WERE IMPRESSIVE. 255 MT OF SORGHUM HAD BEEN AIRLIFTED TO MONGO BY TIME OF INSPECTION AND ALL WERE STORED IN MODERN BUILDINGS WITH DOUBLE-LAYER ROOFS (FOR HEAT CONTROL), PAVED FLOORING AND ADEQUATE VENTILATION. TOTAL OF 40 MT WAS DELIVERED SIMULTANEOUSLY ON DAYS OF INSPECTION AND WAS EFFICIENTLY TRANSPORTED FROM AIRSTRIP TO STORAGE FACILITY WITHIN APPROXIMATELY ONE AND ONE HALF HOURS. GRAIN STORED WAS APPARENTLY IN GOOD CONDITION AND HAD BEEN TRANSPORTED TO AREA AND PUT INTO STORAGE WITH NEGLIGIBLE LOSS.

3. DISTRIBUTION PLANS EMPHASIZE EQUITABLE DISSEMINATION TO POPULATION THROUGH INTERVENTION OF PREFECTURAL COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF STATE, TRADITIONAL AND MILITARY LEADERS FOR DIVISION

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OF AVAILABLE TONNAGE AMONG SOUS-PREFECTURES. EACH OF FOUR

SOUS-PREFECTURES HAS SIMILAR COMMITTEE OF APPROXIMATELY TWELVE MEMBERS EACH, MADE UP OF CANTON CHIEFS, HEADS OF VILLAGES AND TRADITIONAL LEADERS THAT DECIDE UPON EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION AMONG VILLAGES IN EACH CANTON. FOOD DISTRIBUTION POINTS ARE COMPOSED OF INDIVIDUAL VILLAGES AND GROUPINGS OF SMALLER AGGLOMERATIONS.

4. PREFECTURE AUTHORITIES PLAN TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD BY OFFICIAL AND HIRED PRIVATE VEHICLES TO APPROXIMATELY 100 DISTRIBUTION POINTS THROUGHOUT THE PREFECTURE. ACTUAL DISTRIBUTION WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL APPROXIMATELY FIRST OF MARCH FOR TWO MAJOR REASONS. FIRST, DISTRIBUTION WILL INVOLVE MAJOR LOGISTICAL EXERCISE OVER EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF ROADWAYS, FOR THE MOST PART PRIMITIVE TO THE EXTREME, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY IMPASSIBLE. ROAD MAINTNANCE OPERATIONS, WHICH CANNOT BEGIN UNTIL END OF RAINY SEASON, ARE EXPECTED TO GET UNDERWAY EARLY NOVEMBER, BUT WILL NOT BE CONCLUDED UNTIL END FEBRUARY. PREFECTURAL AUTHORITIES DO NOT WANT TO INITIATE PARTIAL DISTRIBUTION IN FAVOR OF POPULATIONS SERVED BY MORE ADEQUATE TRANSPORTATION LINKS IN DETRIMENT TO THOSE MORE ISOLATED. SECONDLY, POPULATION IS CURRENTLY HARVESTING CURRENT CROP OF MILLET, AND SOME RICE AND SESAME, WHICH WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE FOOD IN NEAR TERM. STORED GRAIN WILL SERVE AS BUFFER TO RISING PRICES AS LOCAL PRODUCE COMES INTO SHORT SUPPLY AS WELL AS SERVING AS INSURANCE AGAINST HUNGER DURING SPRING AND SUMMER MONTHS.

5. CROPS THIS YEAR BENEFITTED FROM LESS THAN ADEQUATELY DISTRIBUTED RAINFALL. RAINFALL INADEQUACIES PREVENTED BUMPER CROP CONDITIONS, BUT FOR MOST PART COULD HAVE MADE WORKING OF MOST FAMILY FIELDS PROFITABLE HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR EXTREME DAMAGE CAUSED BY LOCUST. (SEE SEPTTEL THIS SUBJECT) RESULT WILL BE INADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLIES TO LAST THROUGH UNTIL NEXT YEAR'S HARVEST.

6. NO FOOD SUPPLIES WERE STORED IN MONGO PRIOR TO AIRLIFT. ALL PREVIOUS RELIEF SUPPLIES HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED AND CONSUMED. AUTHORITIES INDICATED THAT MULTIDONOR RELIEF FOOD RECEIVED DURING EARLY SUMMER MONTHS HAD BEEN GREATLY NEEDED AND HAD PRECLUDED MASS HUNGER THAT WOULD HAVE SURELY RESULTED IN STARVATION IN MORE THAN NOMINAL NUMBERS.

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7. ADMITTEDLY, CURRENTLY AIRLIFTED GRAIN IS NOT REQUIRED IN NEAR TERM TO MEET EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS. ON OTHER HAND, DELIVERY TO PREFECTURAL STORAGE POINT WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITH ABSOLUTE MINIMAL LOSSES. IMPOSSIBLE PREDICT MAGNITUDE PROBABLE LOSSES AVOIDED, BUT ABSOLUTE INSURANCE WAS PROVIDED AGAINST THOSE REASONABLY EXPECTED THROUGH REPEATED HANDLING, ROUGH TRANSPORTATION CONDITIONS THROUGH UNSECURE AREA AND VARIOUS

DIVERGENCIES AND RIP-OFF.DWYER

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